

I/we claim:

1. A method of providing access to views of network objects within an application for use in managing or viewing a communication network having a hierarchy of network objects, the application providing a graphical user interface through which an operator can issue instructions, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a stored bookmark list of bookmarks, each bookmark being associated with a network object;

displaying the bookmark list in the graphical user interface;

if the operator selects a bookmark in the stored bookmark list, displaying information concerning the network object associated with the bookmark selected by the operator; and

if the operator issues instructions to add a new bookmark to the stored bookmark list, adding a new bookmark to the stored bookmark list, the new bookmark being associated with a currently displayed network object.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein storing the stored bookmark list comprises storing the stored bookmark list uniquely in association with the operator.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of displaying the bookmark list comprises displaying the bookmark list as part of a drop down menu, the drop down menu further including a menu command by which the operator can issue instructions to add a new bookmark to the stored bookmark list.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

if the operator issues instructions to manage the bookmarks, providing a bookmark management window, the bookmark management window

including a temporary bookmark list initially identical to the stored bookmark list;

if the operator issues instructions to create a bookmark group, creating a bookmark group;

if the operator issues instructions to assign one of the bookmarks in the temporary bookmark list, assigning the one of the bookmarks in the temporary bookmark list to the bookmark group; and

if the operator issues instructions to save the bookmark list, storing the temporary bookmark list as the stored bookmark list.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of displaying the bookmark list comprises displaying the bookmark list as part of a drop down menu, the drop down menu further including a command by which the operator can issue instructions to manage the bookmarks.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of providing a bookmark management window comprises displaying a New Folder button, a Rename button, a Delete button, an OK button, and a Cancel button, wherein the operator may designate any bookmark in the temporary bookmark list as a selected bookmark, and wherein the method comprises the further steps of:

if the operator selects the New Folder button, prompting the operator to enter a new bookmark group name, and creating a new bookmark group having the new bookmark group name in the temporary bookmark list;

if the operator selects the Rename button, prompting the operator to enter a new bookmark name, and renaming the selected bookmark with the new bookmark name;

if the operator selects the Delete button, deleting the selected bookmark from the temporary bookmark list; and

if the operator selects the Cancel button, closing the bookmark management window;

and wherein the operator issues the instructions to save the bookmark list by selecting the OK button.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the step of providing a bookmark management window further comprises displaying a Clean Up button, and wherein the method comprises the further step of:

if the operator selects the Clean Up button, removing from the temporary bookmark list any bookmarks for which the associated network object no longer exists within the hierarchy of network objects.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein storing the stored bookmark list comprises storing the stored bookmark list uniquely in association with the operator.

9. A computer-readable medium having instructions for providing access to views of network objects within an application for viewing or managing a communication network having a hierarchy of network objects, the application providing a graphical user interface through which an operator can issue instructions, the computer-readable medium comprising:

instructions for storing a stored bookmark list of bookmarks, each bookmark being associated with a network object;

instructions for displaying the bookmark list in the graphical user interface;

instructions for displaying information concerning the network object associated with a bookmark selected by the operator, in the event that the operator selects a bookmark in the stored bookmark list; and

instructions for adding a new bookmark to the stored bookmark list, the new bookmark being associated with a currently displayed network object, in the event that the operator issues instructions to add a new bookmark to the stored bookmark list.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the instructions for storing the stored bookmark list comprise instructions for storing the stored bookmark list uniquely in association with the operator.

11. The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the instructions for displaying the bookmark list comprise instructions for displaying the bookmark list as part of a drop down menu, the drop down menu further including a menu command by which the operator can issue instructions to add a new bookmark to the stored bookmark list.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 9 further comprising:

instructions for displaying a bookmark management window including a temporary bookmark list initially identical to the stored bookmark list, in the event that the operator issues instructions to manage the bookmarks;

instructions for creating a bookmark group, in the event that the operator issues instructions to create a bookmark group;

instructions for assigning one of the bookmarks in the temporary bookmark list to one of the bookmark groups, in the event that the operator issues instructions to assign one of the bookmarks in the temporary bookmark list; and

instructions for storing the temporary bookmark list as the stored bookmark list, in the event that the operator issues instructions to save the bookmark list.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the instructions for displaying the bookmark list comprise instructions for displaying the bookmark list as part of a drop down menu, the drop down menu further including a command by which the operator can issue instructions to manage the bookmarks.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the instructions for providing a bookmark management window comprise instructions for displaying a New Folder button, a Rename button, a Delete button, an OK button, and a Cancel button, and the computer-readable medium further comprising:

instructions for allowing the operator to designate any bookmark in the temporary bookmark list as a selected bookmark;

instructions for prompting the operator to enter a new bookmark group name and creating a new bookmark group having the new bookmark group name in the temporary bookmark list, in the event that the operator selects the New Folder button;

instructions for prompting the operator to enter a new bookmark name and renaming the selected bookmark with the new bookmark name, in the event that the operator selects the Rename button;

instructions for deleting the selected bookmark from the temporary bookmark list, in the event that the operator selects the Delete button; and

instructions for closing the bookmark management window, in the event that the operator selects the Cancel button;

and wherein the instructions for storing the temporary bookmark list as the stored bookmark list are executed in the even that the operator selects the OK button.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the instructions for providing a bookmark management window further comprise instructions for displaying a Clean Up button, and the computer-readable medium further comprising:

instructions for removing from the temporary bookmark list any bookmarks for which the associated network object no longer exists within the hierarchy of network objects, in the event that the operator selects the Clean Up button.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the instructions for storing the stored bookmark list comprise instructions for storing the stored bookmark list uniquely in association with the operator.